

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed in connection with the above-identified application.

Regarding the Amendments to the Specification

The amendments to the specification were made in order to address an informality, and are also supported throughout the specification. In particular, the amendments provide the correct spelling of “titanium,” which is also supported; for example, at page 4, lines 5-7, which recites the correct spelling of “titanium;” and at page 9, fourth full paragraph, which recites the periodic table symbol for titanium, namely “Ti.” Thus, the amendments to the specification do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Claim Amendments

Claims 4 to 6 have been amended to provide the correct spelling of “titanium.” The amendments were made to address an informality, and are also supported throughout the specification, as set forth above. Thus, the amendments to the claims do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the application be examined on the merits following entry of the Preliminary Amendment, and respectfully request prompt issuance of an Office Action to that effect.

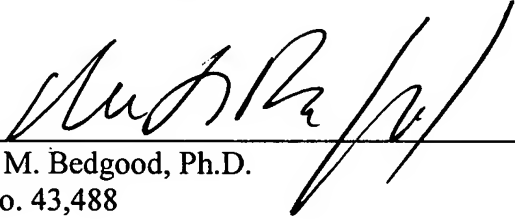
If the Examiner would like to discuss the Preliminary Amendment, Applicant's representative can be reached at (858) 509-4065.

Please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-2212.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

3-7-05



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